

Remarks

Claims 1-2 were pending. By way of this response, claims 1-2 have been cancelled, and claims 3-10 have been added. Support for the amendments to the specification and the claims can be found in the application as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 3-10 are currently pending.

The rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is moot, since this claim has been canceled.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickey '570 in view of Andrew '978 and Trine Quick Change 4500 or NJM Thorobred 350. Claim 3 is similar in scope to original claim 1, however, so its patentability over the proposed reference combination will be briefly discussed. Claim 3 recites an infeed screw assembly comprising a feedscrew, and a gear drive for driving the feedscrew, wherein the feedscrew is pivotable both horizontally and vertically. None of the prior art references disclose or suggest using a gear drive for driving the feedscrew. Additionally, Andrew does not disclose or suggest a feedscrew which is pivotable both horizontally and vertically, as claimed. Rather, Andrew discloses an apparatus having a plurality of timing screws mounted on a pair of horizontally and vertically adjustable platforms, so that they are adjustably mounted both for height and for horizontal distance between their centers (col. 3, lines 55-63). This is not at all equivalent to the pivotal mounting arrangement recited in claim 3, and further recited in dependent claims 7-10. Thus, claims 3-10 are clearly patentable over the prior art.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned representative invites the Examiner to telephone him at the

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